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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 71% Light rain Sensex 84,778 | Nifty 25,966 | Gold 1,21,855 | Silver 1,45,023 | Dollar 88.25 | Euro 102.71 | GBP 117.77

EASE OUR COMMUTE

Residents along Bengaluru's Sarjapur Road and Outer Ring Road rally together to demand better public transport, infra

PAGE 2

ELECTRIC SHOCK

Battery failures, drivers' strikes, safety issues, frequent breakdowns, spike in accidents have marred B'luru's e-bus dreams

PAGE 5

B'luru-Mysuru Highway has seen 27 robbery cases so far, most of which occurred after sundown. With no dedicated rest stops, toilets or security patrol bases, travellers forced to halt along dark stretches

HIGHWAY TO THE DANGER ZONE

Broken fence makes it easy-peasy for criminals to enter expressway

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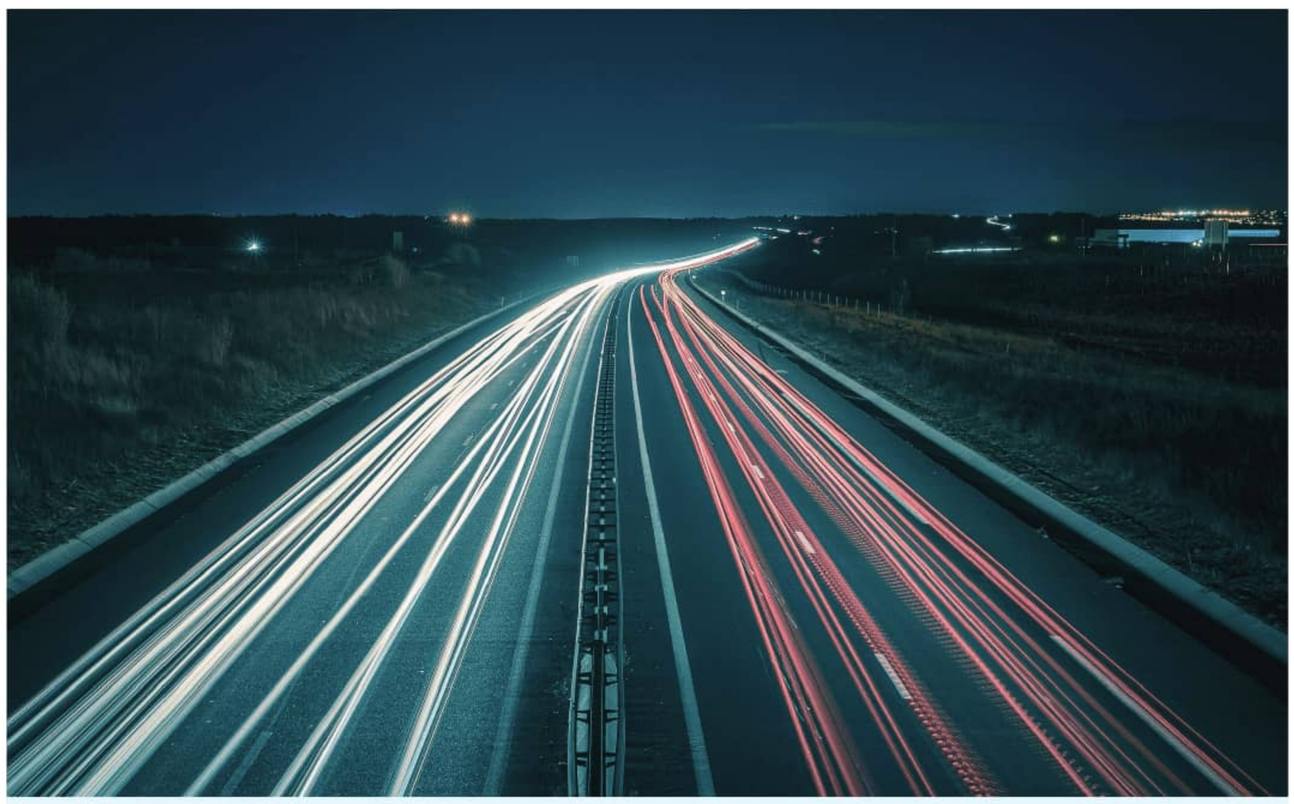

"Hearing that even a police officer was robbed here is terrifying. Those travelling after dark must stay alert — and authorities must act immediately

— Vivek Gowda, regular commuter

The Bengaluru–Mysuru Highway, built at a massive cost to offer faster and smoother travel between the two cities, is increasingly becoming unsafe after sunset. As per official data, the expressway has witnessed 27 robbery cases so far — 15 in Mandya district and 12 in Bengaluru South district. The pattern is alarming: Most incidents occur after dark, when the highway is sparsely monitored and poorly lit. What was meant to symbolise progress and connectivity has now turned into a danger zone at night, with a worrying rise in highway robberies and lack of basic safety measures putting thousands of commuters at risk.

Despite being a national highway, the expressway has no dedicated rest stops, toilets, or security patrol bases, leaving travellers with little choice but to halt along dark stretches — a perfect opportunity for robbers to strike.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2023, the ten-lane Bengaluru–Mysuru Highway was hailed as a milestone in Karnataka's infrastructure. But soon after opening, the highway made headlines not for convenience, but for accidents, poor lighting, and rising crime.

NHAI's failure

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), responsible for maintaining the 119-kilometre stretch, has failed to provide even the minimum infrastructure for traveller safety. There are no rest areas,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Uniform sticking points

Lower-rank police personnel say it is time to bring changes in metal buttons and whistle guards too that can even cause injuries during public control duties

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In the backdrop of the historic move to introduce new P-caps (navy-blue peak caps), lower-rank police personnel have now raised concerns over another aspect of their uniform -- the metal buttons and whistle-guards.

For years, constables and head-constables of the Karnataka State Police have worn uniforms rooted in the colonial era, and many now say these outdated elements put them at risk. The government's decision to replace the slouch hat with the new P-cap marks a historic change, which will be officially distributed, in the presence of the Chief Minister and the Home Minister on Tuesday.

In June 2025, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah approved the move for constables and head-constables to transition away from the slouch hat to a navy-blue peaked cap. The decision followed years of demands from rank-and-file personnel who found the slouch hat uncomfortable, prone to slipping during rallies or high-intensity duties, and indicative of a "British-era" uniform design.

However, while the new headgear

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Deep dive

Azim Premji University is presenting the 'Coasts and Oceans of Life', the fourth edition of its annual climate festival. Building on the success of earlier editions themed on rivers, forests, and mountains, this year's festival dives deep into the ecology, livelihoods, and imagination of the seas that shape India. **Where: Azim Premji University, Sarjapur; When: October 27 to November 8**

02 Fur the win

Bangalore Canine Club is presenting the 131st & 132nd All India Championship Dog Shows alongside the 59th & 60th Bangalore Canine Club Championship Show. This year's show will feature 450–500 pedigreed dogs representing over 50 breeds. **Where: Esha Farms & Leisure, Yelahanka; When: November 1 and 2**

03 Graceful rhythm

Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation, Bengaluru, is presenting the 12th edition of Natya Parampara Utsav 2025. The programmes include recognition works of a senior Kuchipudi guru along with Kuchipudi performances. **Where: Seva Sadan Auditorium, Malleshwaram; When: October 31, 6 pm**

04 Soulful music

Known for his powerful and heartfelt voice, Kailash Kher will be performing live, in a show full of emotion, passion and pure artistry. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: November 1, 7.30 pm**

05 Sketch, set, go

St Joseph's Boys' High School is presenting its much-awaited annual art and craft exhibition – MERAKI, The Love and Soul of Art, Season 3. This year's edition promises to be a vibrant celebration of creativity, and artistic expression, showcasing the exceptional talents of students, parents, and teachers. **Where: St Joseph's Boys' High School, Ashok Nagar; When: October 31, 9 am to 7 pm**

Commuters demand reliable public transport access

Citizens push for better transport facilities with enhanced frequency of metro and bus services, improved condition of bus stops and upgradation of BMTC mobile app

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Residents along Bengaluru's Sarjapur Road and Outer Ring Road (ORR) corridor are rallying together to demand better public transport and infrastructure in one of the city's most traffic-congested stretches. The Federation of Resident Welfare Associations across Sarjapur Road is pushing for sustainable mobility solutions and improved last-mile connectivity, highlighting how thousands of IT professionals living in the area are being deprived of reliable transport facilities despite contributing significantly to the city's economy.

The residents have identified key routes that could transform daily commutes if supported by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and the Transport Department. These include a dedicated Sarjapur Road–ORR main road service starting at Dommasandra and connecting to Prestige Tech Park via Doddakannelli and Gear School Road, with a proposed 5-minute frequency covering 11 km using AC buses. They have also proposed a Hosa Road Metro–KR Puram Metro feeder service via Kasavanahalli Road and ORR, or alternatively, increasing the frequency of the existing 500EB bus to every 10 minutes. Another suggested route connects Hosa Road Metro to Haralur and Prestige Tech Park, while a longer service between Dommasandra Bus Stand and Bommanahalli Metro has been proposed with a 15-minute frequency over a 16 km stretch.

Vishnu Prasad from the Kasavanahalli Development Forum said that more than 25 per cent of IT families reside in and around Sarjapur Road, Kasavanahalli, Haralur, and Dommasandra, yet the lack of dependable public transport forces most to rely on private vehicles. "Reliable connectivity to workplaces across the Outer Ring Road would not only reduce congestion but also encourage thousands of commuters to switch to public buses," said Prasad.

Adding to the problem, several bus shelters along these routes are in poor condition. Many lack proper seating, shade, and hygiene facilities, while some don't exist at all in areas like Kasavanahalli and Haralur. Commuters say this lack of basic infrastructure makes daily travel both unsafe and inconvenient, especially for women and the elderly.

The federation has also called for digital display boards at bus shelters to improve reliability, and for the BMTC mobile app to be upgraded with accurate real-time tracking to help passengers plan their journeys better. In addition, residents have urged authorities to upgrade Carmelaram Station into a full-fledged transit terminal integrating rail, metro, and bus services for seamless multi-modal connectivity.

Naresh Sadasivan, Trustee, Iblur Environs Trust, said, "Our belief is that public transport is the only answer to reducing private single-occupancy vehicles on Sarjapur Road & ORR, in our goal to improve traffic flow in this dense area." He said buses must run at predictable 5–7 minute intervals during peak hours, be of good quality—preferably air-conditioned—to attract IT employees, and operate point-to-point without time-consuming hops. He added that this should be supported by a robust bus app offering minute-by-minute updates and digital display boards at well-maintained bus stops.

Reliable connectivity to workplaces across Outer Ring Road would not only reduce congestion but also encourage commuters to switch to public buses, says Kasavanahalli Development Forum member

"Specifically, AC buses from Dommasandra Bus Stop to ORR tech parks, and Dommasandra Bus Stop to Bommasandra Metro station via Muthanallur Cross & Circle are required," he said.

He said that bus frequency remains poor and bus quality substandard. He added that if buses arrive unpredictably every 20–30 minutes during peak hours, the system is bound to fail as IT employees will eventually turn to private vehicles.

The citizens met Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and highlighted the need for buses. They were assured to have a trial of bus movement this week and decide what could be done next.

Confusion over BEd candidates' eligibility for TET Paper-1

A major confusion has arisen over whether BEd graduates are eligible to apply for Karnataka Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) Paper-1, which qualifies candidates to teach primary level students. Although the official notification clearly mentions that candidates with PUC with DEd or degree with BEd qualifications are eligible to apply, the online application system is rejecting BEd candidates, marking them as "ineligible." As a result, hundreds of aspirants are struggling to submit their applications—visiting online centres repeatedly without success. Candidates point out that in previous TET notifications, BEd-qualified applicants were allowed to write Paper-1 and their applications were accepted without issue. With November 11 being the last date to apply, candidates are demanding that the CA Cell issues an immediate clarification or fix the online portal to ensure fair access. The glitch has also reignited debate over whether BEd holders can apply for primary teacher posts, or if only DEd holders qualify. **— BMB**

City likely to have dry days from Wednesday

It was drizzling in the city on Monday. However, Bengaluru is set to experience a return to dry weather from October 29, after several days of intermittent rainfall caused by the influence of twin cyclonic systems over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. According to the Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru, the cloudy and rainy conditions over the city and other parts of South Interior Karnataka are expected to subside as these weather systems move away and weaken over the next two days.

The cyclonic storm Montha (pronounced Mon-Tha) over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal has been moving north-northwestwards at a speed of 18 kmph. As of Monday morning, it was centered about 520 km east-southeast of Chennai and is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning before crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kakinada later in the evening or night. At the same time, a depression over the east-central Arabian Sea is progressing north-northeastwards at a speed of about 20 kmph. These twin systems have collectively enhanced cloud formation and moisture flow across southern parts of India, resulting in widespread rainfall across Karnataka, including Bengaluru.

The IMD has forecast light to moderate rain for Bengaluru until October 28, accompanied by generally cloudy skies and mild temperatures. However, from October 29 onwards, rainfall activity is expected to taper off, paving the way for clearer skies. **— BMB**

Child rights panel urges schools not to cut play hours for better results

Dr KT Thippeswamy, member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), has written to the Commissioner of the Department of School Education and Literacy, urging that schools must not curtail play hours during school time, especially for class 10 students. The Commission, after holding student interactions and school visits across the state, found that many schools were skipping scheduled play periods in order to focus solely on improving board exam results.

In his letter, Dr Thippeswamy emphasised that sports, arts, and music are integral to a child's holistic development, and restricting them amounts to a violation of children's rights. He pointed out that Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises play as a fundamental right, and denying it in the name of academic performance could negatively affect students' learning and well-being. Citing lack of awareness and misconceptions among teachers and officials, he urged the department to issue clear directions to ensure mandatory conduct of play periods as per the school timetable in all institutions across the state. **— BMB**

Lorry driver jailed for fatal accident

A lorry driver has been sentenced to one year and three months' simple imprisonment for causing a fatal accident at Hope Farm Junction.

The incident occurred on March 17, 2023, when a 78-year-old woman, Ramakka, was fatally hit by a speeding lorry under the Whitefield Traffic Police limits. The driver, identified as Pramesh (33), jumped a traffic signal while driving from Kadugodi towards Whitefield and struck the pedestrian as she crossed the road.

Ramakka suffered severe injuries to her hands and legs and was rushed to Vaidehi Hospital but died on the way.

Following the investigation, Whitefield Traffic Police filed a detailed report. After the trial, the ACJM Court, Bangalore Rural District, found the driver guilty and sentenced him to one year and three months' simple imprisonment and a 4,800 fine, with nine additional days in default. **-BMB**

Cops suspended over sexual harassment charges

A police inspector and an assistant sub-inspector from the Devara Jeevanahalli (DJ Halli) police station have been suspended after being accused of sexually harassing a woman and demanding sexual favours.

The suspended officers have been identified as Inspector Sunil H B and ASI Prakash. The action followed an FIR registered at the Govindapura police station, which was later transferred to Peenya police as the alleged incident occurred in an apartment located in that jurisdiction.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed the suspension and said that a detailed investigation was underway.

According to the complaint filed by a 36-year-old beautician with DG&IGP M A Saleem, Inspector Sunil befriended her a year ago under the pretext of helping her in a legal matter. He allegedly promised to marry her and engaged in a physical relationship several times. Later, ASI Prakash, who became aware of the relationship, allegedly demanded sexual favours from the woman and threatened her when she refused.

A senior police officer said that both have been booked under Sections 69 (sexual intercourse by deceitful means) and 75 (sexual harassment) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The officers are absconding, and a manhunt is on to trace and arrest them. **-BMB**

CRIME FILES

Hackers wipe off ₹48 cr from fin firm's account

Police find 1,782 illegal transactions across 656 accounts

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Two persons identified as Ismail Rasheed Attar (27) and Sanjay Patel (43) have been arrested for allegedly hacking into the bank accounts of Wisdom Finance Pvt. Ltd. and illegally transferring around ₹48 crore through foreign IP addresses.

According to the complaint filed by the Senior Manager of the firm at the Cyber Crime Police Station on August 7, 2025, several unauthorised transactions were noticed between August 6 and 7. An internal probe by the company revealed that the transactions were not initiated from its official systems or registered IPs but had originated from foreign locations. Nearly ₹47 crore had been illegally transferred to multiple accounts.

Police investigation found that a total of 1,782 transactions were made from Wisdom Finance Pvt. Ltd.'s accounts, transferring money into 656 different bank accounts. Among these, ₹27.39 lakh had been transferred directly into the SBI account of one person, who was arrested on September 25 and remanded to judicial custody.

Further inquiry revealed that ₹5.5 crore had been transferred from the company's account to that of Unknown Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, and later diverted to an ICICI Bank account belonging to another individual. Unknown Technologies Pvt. Ltd. had reportedly carried out these transactions using IP addresses registered with Webyne Data Centre, purchased by another person.

Finance firm's systems hacked via international data centres

On October 9, 2025, another suspect was arrested. Investigations revealed that two individuals based in Dubai had rented five server IP addresses. The probe also found that the Dubai-based duo had hired hackers from Hong Kong, who manipulated the bank's API systems to bypass security protocols and execute unauthorised fund transfers from Wisdom Finance Pvt. Ltd.'s accounts using IPs traced to Hong Kong and Lithuania. These addresses were linked to the five rented servers.

Illegal firearm recovered, drug link exposed

The CCB Organised Crime Wing (East) arrested a man for illegal possession of a firearm and live ammunition near the Indian Oil Petrol Bunk in Suddaguntepalya on October 23, 2025.

Acting on a tip-off, the CCB team rushed to the spot, surrounded the suspect, and detained him. During the search, officers recovered one pistol and four live bullets from his possession. The accused failed to produce any valid licence for the weapon or ammunition.

During interrogation, he reportedly confessed to involvement in drug peddling and revealed that he had procured the firearm and bullets from a supplier in Madhya Pradesh. He also admitted to using the weapon to threaten rivals and support his illegal narcotics trade.

A case has been registered under the Arms Act at the CCB Police Station. The accused was produced before court and remanded to five days of police custody. **-BMB**

Delivery agent held in molestation case

The RT Nagar police have arrested a 21-year-old delivery executive for allegedly molesting a Brazilian model while delivering groceries to her apartment on October 17.

The accused, identified as Kumar, a diploma student working part-time as a delivery executive, was tracked down through delivery records and arrested on Saturday. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

Police said the victim, who lives with three other models in a company-provided apartment, had ordered groceries through the Blinkit app. When Kumar arrived to deliver the order, he allegedly touched her inappropriately. Shocked, the woman pushed him out and locked the door.

Initially too frightened to report the incident, the victim later informed her flatmates, who alerted their company's management. The owner verified CCTV footage, confirmed the incident, and approached the police.

Based on a complaint filed by Karthik Vinayak, police registered a case under Sections 75(1) (sexual harassment) and 76 (assault or use of criminal force with intent to disrobe or compel nudity) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. **-BMB**

Toddler dies in fall from balcony

A three-year-old boy lost his life after falling from the second-floor balcony of a three-storey building in Weavers Colony, Gottigere, under the Konanakunte police station limits on Saturday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Vehanth, son of Vinod and Kavya, residents of 10th Cross, Weavers Colony. According to the police, the incident occurred around 6 pm when Vehanth was playing on the balcony with his mother. Kavya went inside the house after her brother-in-law's sister asked for help in the kitchen, leaving the child unattended for a few minutes. During this time, Vehanth reportedly climbed a two-foot wall and accidentally fell from the second floor.

He sustained severe head injuries and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital. Doctors said blood was clotted in his head and his condition remained critical. Despite continuous medical efforts, Vehanth succumbed to his injuries on Sunday morning.

Konanakunte police have registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating the incident. **-BMB**

Encroached footpaths force pedestrians onto busy roads

Pedestrians, metro commuters struggle amid rampant footpath encroachment in Pai Layout, residents urge officials, traffic police to restore safe walking space

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Pedestrians and residents from Pai Layout, Nagavarapalya, and Benniganahalli have been facing a lot of problems due to the brazen encroachment of footpaths developed with taxpayers' money. These footpaths are meant for pedestrians to walk and not for encroachment. The authorities who developed these footpaths have turned a blind eye to the issue. With hardly any space left on the footpaths, pedestrians, especially Namma Metro commuters, are compelled to walk on the road, making themselves vulnerable to accidents.

"The authorities spent a huge amount of money to develop these footpaths. The objective was to ensure pedestrians walk without any hassles, but these footpaths are encroached by vendors with impunity. The vendors are not bothered about hapless pedestrians forced to walk on the road. I want the authorities concerned to clear encroachments and facilitate pedestrians to walk on the footpaths," said Ashok G, a resident.

Demanding that the authorities clear encroachments without fear or favour, Padmanabha N, a resident of Pai Layout, said the footpath has become a destination for roadside eateries and petty shops. "We are not against vendors doing business here, but they are not supposed to occupy the entire footpath meant for pedestrians. The number of petty shops is increasing day by day. I do not know why the authorities are keeping quiet. The need of the hour is to keep the footpath free from all types of encroachment," said Padmanabha.

Left: The condition of the footpath near Pai Layout' Right: The footpath occupied by illegal petty shops

> **"We are not against vendors doing business here but they are not supposed to occupy the entire footpath meant for pedestrians** – Padmanabha N, a resident of Pai Layout

Purushotham S, a resident, said neither the authorities nor the traffic police have bothered to clear the encroachment. "Earlier, the footpath was in a poor condition. The authorities developed it when Namma Metro service was inaugurated two years ago. It is disgusting to see vendors and roadside eateries occupying the footpath," he said.

Expressing concern over the issue, NH Subramanian, Secretary of Pai Layout Residents' Welfare Association, said he wrote to the Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, but no action was taken. "Many people who alight from buses from Andhra Pradesh in the early hours use the footpath as an open urinal and throw empty tea cups there. Roadside vendors supply tea to these bus passengers. The footpaths at Pai Layout are also encroached by roadside vendors. The BECC authorities cleared the encroachments, but the vendors returned the next day. We want the authorities to act tough against vendors occupying footpaths," said Subramanian.

However, Mahadevapura Traffic Police Inspector assured that steps would be taken. "The BECC authorities gave permission for a few physically challenged people to run petty shops. I will write to the BECC authorities to clear petty shops from the footpath," he said.

Farmers protest BDA's unfair compensation plan

BDA's 77-km PRR plan allows 40% development using outdated land values, disadvantaging farmers

Residents from villages on the western and northern edges of Bengaluru have approached Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, seeking his intervention to quash the long-delayed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), citing several legal violations.

Members of the PRR Raitha Haagu Niveshanadarara Sangha stated that Part-1 of the project has lapsed due to the expiry of the five-year period as per Section 27 of the BDA Act. "We have been suffering for the last 20 years. We have requested the Governor to consider the plight of around 20,000 families affected by the PRR Part-1 project," said a member of the Sangha and resident of one of the 75 villages in the region.

The Sangha has also pointed out the absence of a Detailed Project Report (DPR), a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), and an Environmental Clearance (EC) certificate for the project. According to the BDA, farmers losing land will be offered four compensation options — cash payment, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), Floor Area Ratio (FAR) benefits, or developed residential or commercial sites. Those losing up to 20 guntas will receive cash compensation, while larger landowners can opt for other alternatives.

> **According to the BDA, farmers losing land will be offered four compensation options — cash payment, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), Floor Area Ratio (FAR) benefits, or developed residential or commercial sites**

However, Sangha members have termed the compensation options an "eyewash." In their letter to the Governor, they stated that the cash compensation scheme is based on 2016 guideline values that have not been revised. They further pointed out that the TDR option could jeopardise farmers' livelihoods due to risks of speculation, corruption, and manipulation arising from the lack of transparency and proper valuation mechanisms.

The members also noted that PRR, being a linear project, covers areas with drastically varying land values from village to village. On the 77-kilometre stretch, BDA's proposal to accommodate up to 40% developed area is based on reduced guideline values, further disadvantaging farmers. "BDA is the main agency acquiring land around Bengaluru and planning new layouts and roads like the PRR. However, unlike other agencies such as BMRCL, KRDCL, NHAI, KIADB, and KHB that have adopted the amended 2013 Land Acquisition Act to ensure fair compensation, BDA continues to follow the outdated Act," said a Sangha member, reiterating their appeal to the Governor to quash the project. **— BMB**

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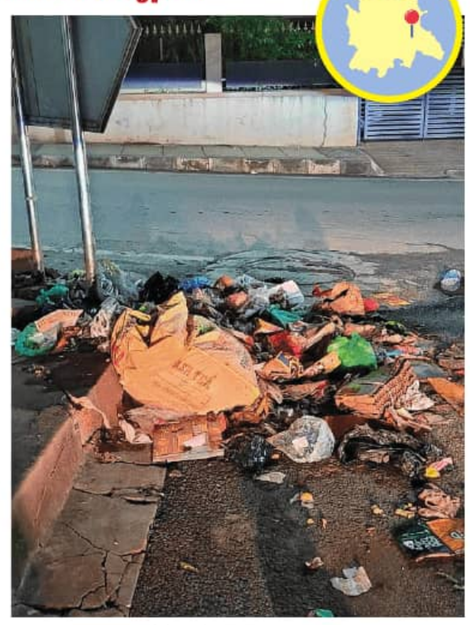
Waste woes
Meghiapalya

A garbage vehicle in Meghipalya, Chelikere, near Kalyan Nagar, dangerously tilted due to excessive load of waste sacks, ignored despite repeated complaints.

Garbage neglect
Chamrajpet



A growing garbage heap outside a clinic in Chamrajpet is driving patients away as BBMP's inaction worsens the health hazard.

Safety ignored
Austin Town

An open road dugout on Linden Street, Austin Town, left unattended for over a month, poses serious safety risks as Bescom ignores repeated complaints.

City's electric dreams are losing power

Several e-buses operating under GCC model are frequently off roads due to technical snags and maintenance issues, with alarmingly high rates of accident cases and cancellation rates also recorded

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Once hailed as the future of clean mobility, Bengaluru's electric bus project has morphed into a high-voltage failure — mired in technical glitches, safety lapses, and operational chaos. In just three years, the city's four GCC e-bus operators have reported over 13,800 battery failures, Rs 2,550 lakh in fines, and more than a dozen driver strikes that crippled services and caused losses exceeding Rs 5.45 crore. Accident cases have spiked by a staggering 483 per cent, with fatal crashes rising tenfold, while cancellation rates for e-buses have surged to 9.8 per cent, compared to just 1.4–3.1 per cent for diesel buses.

B'luru's e-mobility mission stalls

When Bengaluru embraced electric buses, the vision was simple — reduce pollution, save fuel, and create a cleaner city. But three years later, the ground reality is grim. Of the nearly 1,700 e-buses operating under the GCC model, several are frequently off the roads due to technical snags and maintenance issues.

The project, jointly implemented under the FAME II & CESL initiatives and other capital investment projects, has seen the involvement of major Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and operators including NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited, Tata Motors Limited, Switch Mobility Automotive Limited, and OHM Global Mobility Pvt Ltd.

However, their performance has come under sharp criticism from the state government, which has accused them of inefficiency and negligence. "The Centre's electric bus initiative was well-intentioned, but the operators' performance is unacceptable. We have written to the Union Government demanding strict action and immediate reform," said Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Breakdowns and battery failures

Data shared by the Transport Department paints a bleak picture. Bengaluru's e-bus fleet is plagued by frequent breakdowns, unreliable batteries, and poor technical upkeep. Transport Minister Reddy said that NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd, which runs 90 buses, saw cancellations climb from 5.5 per cent in 2023–24 to 9.8 per cent in 2024–25, with battery failures soaring from 102 to 602 this year (till September) and fines touching Rs 980 lakh. He said that Switch Mobility Automotive Ltd, managing 300 buses, recorded a massive jump in battery issues from 272 to 10,976 and cancellations rising to 9.8 per cent, attracting fines worth Rs 305.52 lakh. He noted that the biggest operator, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd, running 1,031 buses, saw breakdowns rise from 257 to 992 and battery failures from 244 to 2,120, leading to Rs 1,199 lakh in fines, while OHM Global Mobility Pvt Ltd (251 buses) reported 12.84 per cent to 8.78 per cent cancellations, recurring battery failures (144 each year), and fines escalating from Rs 7.65 lakh to Rs 67.25 lakh.

Driver strikes

Adding to the operational chaos are frequent driver strikes and staff shortages, resulting in mass cancellations and commuter inconvenience. Many drivers have gone on strike over unpaid wages and festive bonuses, causing service disruptions across the city.

"Between February 2024 and October 2025, strikes led to the cancellation of thousands of trips and an estimated loss of Rs 5.45 crore," said Reddy, adding that to cut costs, several operators have deployed fewer staff per bus than required, resulting in fatigue and a noticeable decline in service quality.

Following are the demands from the State to Centre

- A comprehensive audit of all GCC e-bus operators under FAME II and CESL has been proposed.
- Mandatory driver training and certification before deployment is being sought.
- A call has been made for tighter enforcement of safety and service standards.
- A joint Centre–State compliance monitoring system has been recommended.
- The move aims to restore accountability and reliability in Bengaluru's e-bus operations.

Diesel vs electric: A startling contrast

Once a strong advocate for full electrification of Bengaluru's fleet, Reddy now concedes that diesel buses are proving far more dependable. Data shows the city's 5,423 diesel buses maintained low cancellation rates of 1.7 per cent in 2023–24, 1.4 per cent in 2024–25, and 3.1 per cent till September 2025, with just 37 to 122 breakdowns in the same period—figures dramatically lower than those of electric buses. In comparison, GCC-operated e-buses recorded up to 10 per cent cancellations, three times more breakdowns per kilometre, and a higher accident rate of 0.07 per lakh km, against 0.05 for diesel.

Accidents on the rise

The city's electric bus fleet has seen a disturbing 483 per cent spike in accidents over the past three years, with several turning fatal. "The total number of reported cases jumped from 6 in 2023–24 to 29 in 2024–25—a 383 per cent increase—and further to 35 by September 2025, marking an overall 483 per cent surge. Fatal crashes alone rose tenfold, from 1 to 11 within the same period," said the Minister. He said that many of these incidents were attributed to rash or distracted driving, including drivers using mobile phones behind the wheel or operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol. He opined that the sharp escalation underscores growing safety concerns around the city's electric bus operations and highlights the urgent need for stricter driver training, monitoring, and enforcement protocols.

State vs Centre: Blame game intensifies

The issue has now snowballed into a political tussle between the State and Centre. Minister Ramalinga Reddy has accused the Union Government of turning a blind eye to the project's failures while pushing states to expand EV adoption without proper accountability frameworks.

HIGH COURT

'Consensual': Relief to rape accused

The Karnataka High Court has quashed an FIR against a 23-year-old man accused of raping a woman he had met through a dating app, observing that a consensual relationship cannot ordinarily be criminalised.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while allowing a petition filed by Sampras Anthony, remarked, "A relationship born of mutual volition, even if it founders in disappointment, cannot, save in the clearest of cases, be transmuted into an offence under the criminal law."

According to the prosecution, the complainant and the accused became acquainted through a dating app and continued their interactions for over a year through photos and chats on Instagram.

On August 11, 2024, they met in person for the first time, had a meal together, and later checked into a hotel where they engaged in physical intimacy. The following day, Anthony dropped the woman back at her residence.

The next day, the woman underwent a medical examination at Ramaiah Hospital and later filed a complaint alleging sexual assault, leading to the registration of an FIR and Anthony's arrest. The police subsequently filed a charge sheet against him under Section 64 (rape) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Anthony approached the High Court seeking to quash the proceedings, contending that the encounters were entirely consensual. His counsel argued that the chats and photos exchanged between the two clearly demonstrated mutual consent, but the investigating officer had deliberately excluded them from the charge sheet.

The prosecution, however, opposed the plea, asserting that the accused had sexually assaulted the complainant and that the matter required trial. It further argued that under the BNS, sexual intercourse without valid consent, even under the pretext of a relationship, is punishable.

After examining the complaint, charge sheet, and a memo containing chat transcripts, the court noted that the exchanges between the two were "not in good taste" and unfit for reproduction but unmistakably showed that their intimacy was consensual. Justice Nagaprasanna observed that allowing the case to proceed would amount to an abuse of the legal process.

Consequently, the High Court quashed the FIR and all proceedings against the petitioner, reaffirming that consensual relationships, even when they later lead to disputes or regret, cannot automatically be treated as criminal offences. **BMB**

No need for delinquent officer to get chance to disagree

In a significant ruling, the Karnataka High Court has held that Rule 11A(2) of the State Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957, does not require the Disciplinary Authority to provide an opportunity to the delinquent officer before recording points of disagreement with the enquiry officer's findings.

A division bench comprising Justice DK Singh and Justice Rajesh Rai K delivered the judgment while hearing an appeal filed by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd against an order of a single judge.

The case concerned T Nalini, who was working as a Junior Assistant with the Corporation. Nalini had availed leave from May 31, 2004 to June 30, 2004, following which her employer issued a charge sheet on three counts. The enquiry officer later found that none of the charges were proved.

However, the Disciplinary Authority disagreed with the findings and issued a notice dated October 7, 2011, detailing the points of disagreement and calling for her response. After considering Nalini's reply, the authority imposed penalties — postponing two annual increments with cumulative effect and forfeiting 50 per cent of her salary for the period she was compulsorily retired and did not work. Her absence from November 21, 2004, to April 4, 2006, was also treated as unauthorised leave.

Challenging the order, Nalini approached the High Court. The single judge relied on the Supreme Court's decision in Punjab National Bank & Others vs Kunj Behari Misra (1987) to hold that the delinquent officer must be given an opportunity before recording points of disagreement. The judge quashed the punishment and appellate orders, directing the employer to restore benefits to the employee.

The employer then appealed to the division bench, which disagreed with the single judge's reasoning. It clarified that the CCA Rules do not mandate giving such an opportunity before recording disagreement. "Before recording the final finding on the charge, after considering the reply of the delinquent officer, the principles of natural justice must be followed — and in this case, they were," the court said.

Accordingly, the bench set aside the single judge's order.

The court modified the penalty to withholding one increment with cumulative effect. It further directed that Nalini's period of absence from November 21, 2004, to April 4, 2006, be treated as continuity of service, though she would not receive salary for that period under the principle of "no work, no pay."

With these modifications, the appeal was disposed of.

State's birth rate stabilise; deaths ease in post-Covid decade shift

Vital Statistics 2023 reveals rebounding births, easing deaths, and sharp infant mortality decline marking states' steady demographic transition post-pandemic

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Karnataka's demographic trends show a clear post-COVID shift, with births rebounding and deaths easing after the pandemic peak. According to the latest Vital Statistics of India, Civil Registration System 2023, registered births rose sharply in 2022 following the pandemic-induced dip in 2020–21, reflecting a short-term recovery. While 2023 saw a modest 2% decline from the previous year, the overall pattern indicates that birth trends are stabilising after the rebound. Meanwhile, registered deaths, which spiked during the second wave of COVID-19 in 2021, declined steadily in 2022 and 2023, suggesting a gradual return to pre-pandemic levels. However, the long-term rise in mortality continues to shape the state's ageing demographic profile, with the elderly population forming a growing share of the total.

Karnataka recorded 10.16 lakh births and 5.39 lakh deaths in 2023, reflecting moderate year-on-year variations. Over the past decade, the number of births has fallen slightly, while deaths have steadily increased—an indication of demographic maturity, with lower fertility, delayed parenthood, and improved life expectancy. Experts suggest that the slowdown in birth rates also reflects urban lifestyle changes, rising education levels among women, and a preference for smaller families. The post-pandemic years have further reinforced these social shifts, as couples prioritise financial stability and career goals before starting families.

Declining infant deaths and expanding neonatal care underline Karnataka's steady progress in maternal–child health and a stronger post-pandemic public-health infrastructure

At the national level, India registered 2.52 crore births in 2023, marginally lower than 2.54 crore in 2022, signalling stability. Between 2014 and 2023, registered births across the country rose by nearly 9.6%, largely due to better registration coverage even as fertility declined in several states. Karnataka's registered births, however, fell by 6.5% over the same period—from 10.87 lakh in 2014 to 10.16 lakh in 2023. The state's registrations dipped during 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic disruptions but surged by 15.4% in 2022 before easing slightly the following year, marking a post-COVID correction.

Karnataka ranks ninth nationally and third in South India in total registered births, behind Maharashtra (18.05 lakh) and Tamil Nadu (9.02 lakh), but ahead of Andhra Pradesh (7.62 lakh) and Telangana (6.52 lakh). Smaller southern states like Kerala (3.93 lakh) and Goa (17,240) record far fewer births, highlighting Karnataka's demographic weight. With 98.6% birth registration and 100% death registration, the state remains among the country's most reliable for vital statistics—a key indicator of administrative efficiency and data reliability.

In total deaths, Karnataka ranks seventh nationally and third in the South after Tamil Nadu (6.93 lakh) and Maharashtra (7.73 lakh). The state's death-to-birth ratio has risen from 0.38 in 2014 to 0.53 in 2023, underscoring its demographic transition toward an ageing population.

Karnataka has also achieved major gains in child survival. Infant deaths fell from 17,286 in 2014 to 8,490 in 2023—a decline of over 50%. Improvements in institutional deliveries, neonatal care, and immunisation have driven this drop. The state's estimated Infant Mortality Rate is now below 20 per 1,000 live births, one of the lowest in India, reflecting stronger maternal and child health systems.

After pandemic disruptions, Karnataka's birth and death registrations stabilise, with over 10 lakh births, 100% registration coverage, and a 50% drop in infant deaths showcasing demographic maturity and stronger health systems

In 2023, Karnataka registered 5.26 lakh male and 4.90 lakh female births, yielding a sex ratio of 1.07 males per female—moderate compared to states like Uttar Pradesh (1.11) and Maharashtra (1.10). Male deaths, at 3.19 lakh, exceeded female deaths (2.20 lakh), mirroring national trends of higher male mortality due to occupational and lifestyle factors.

Congress kickstarts 2026 MLC poll prep

The ruling Congress has initiated preparations for the 2026 Legislative Council elections from Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies by inviting applications from ticket aspirants. Applicants are required to submit their forms along with a ₹1 lakh Demand Draft as a party donation by November 1. The elections will cover four constituencies — West Graduates (Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Uttara Kannada), South-East Graduates (Chitradurga, Davanagere, Tumakuru, Chikkaballapura, Kolar), North-East Teachers (Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari), and Bengaluru Teachers (Bengaluru Urban, Rural, South). Party insiders said this exercise marks the first phase of candidate selection, signalling an early start to groundwork for the crucial MLC polls scheduled in November 2026, when the tenure of current members ends. — BMB

₹2.47 lakh crore still lying unspent

Halfway through the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Karnataka government has spent just 30% of its ₹3.53 lakh crore budget, highlighting sluggish fund utilisation. Between April and September, departments used only ₹1.06 lakh crore of the ₹1.48 lakh crore released, leaving ₹2.47 lakh crore unspent. Although 42% of total grants have been issued, over ₹41,000 crore remains idle. Government flagship guarantee schemes have performed better, accounting for ₹25,180 crore of total expenditure so far. However, departments such as Women and Child Development have fallen behind spending only ₹6,093 crore of their ₹34,954 crore allocation. This delay has affected timely Gruhalakshmi payments. Officials blame procedural hurdles and slow approvals, while pressure mounts to speed up disbursals in the remaining half of the fiscal year. — BMB

Cabinet reshuffle sparks Congress power tussle

Speculation within the Karnataka Congress has intensified after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah confirmed that the issue of a cabinet reshuffle will soon be discussed with the party high command. Several legislators, including NH Konareddy, AS Ponnanna, and KN Rajanna, have publicly expressed interest in ministerial positions. While some claim the reshuffle is nearly finalised, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi hinted it could see new faces replacing underperforming ministers. Konareddy suggested up to 20 ministers might be dropped based on performance, asserting that the Chief Minister knows "who hasn't worked effectively." Ponnanna emphasised Kodagu's need for cabinet representation, and Rajanna remarked that whoever decides the reshuffle could emerge as the next CM. Meanwhile, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar is expected to visit Delhi to consult the high command, amid growing chatter over the Congress's internal "cabinet circus." — BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Sandur's misty hills beckon Bengalureans to North Karnataka's wilderness

Once a mining hub, Sandur's fog-wrapped forests and cool peaks now draw trekkers, students, and eco-tourists from bustling Bengaluru

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For Bengalureans seeking a refreshing escape into nature, Sandur in Ballari district is fast emerging as a scenic retreat known for its misty hills, dense forests, and serene reservoirs.

Often called North Karnataka's "Oxygen Bank," Sandur and its surroundings — Ramgad, Swamimalai, Donimalai, and Narihalla — offer a cool, green haven just a few hours' drive from the city. Perched over 3,000 feet above sea level, the hills are shrouded in fog for much of the day, giving visitors a Western Ghats-like experience. The Narihalla reservoir, flocks of parrots, and peacocks that roam freely across the forest belt add to the charm, drawing trekkers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts from Bengaluru and nearby towns.

Despite the scars left by decades of mining, Sandur's natural beauty endures. Environmentalists and trekking groups have been urging the government to protect these forests from further exploitation and promote eco-tourism instead. The region's perennial springs, medicinal plants, and biodiversity make it ideal for guided treks and educational nature trails.

Trekkers describe Sandur's fog-laden routes as both challenging and rewarding. Visibility often drops to a few feet, forcing vehicles to drive with headlights even during the day. Yet, the thrill of reaching viewpoints like Ramgad Peak — where clouds drift below one's feet — keeps adventurers coming back.

Over the past year, Sandur has become a weekend favourite for students and young professionals from Bengaluru, many of whom share their treks through photos and reels on social media. Environmentalists suggest that funds from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) could be used to develop subsidised trekking programmes for students, encouraging them to appreciate and conserve these fragile habitats.

Environmentalists urge protection of Sandur's fragile forests, calling for DMF funds to support student treks and eco-education over mining expansion.

Once known primarily for mining, Sandur's forests and hills are now reclaiming their identity as North Karnataka's untouched natural gem — a misty, green escape for the city's weary travellers.

Cops join K-RERA crackdown on defaulting builders

State govt coordinates K-RERA police recovery initiative, tackle non-compliant builders, uphold regulations, safeguard public interest, recover massive dues, reinforce accountability, ensure prompt action

Y Maheswara Reddy
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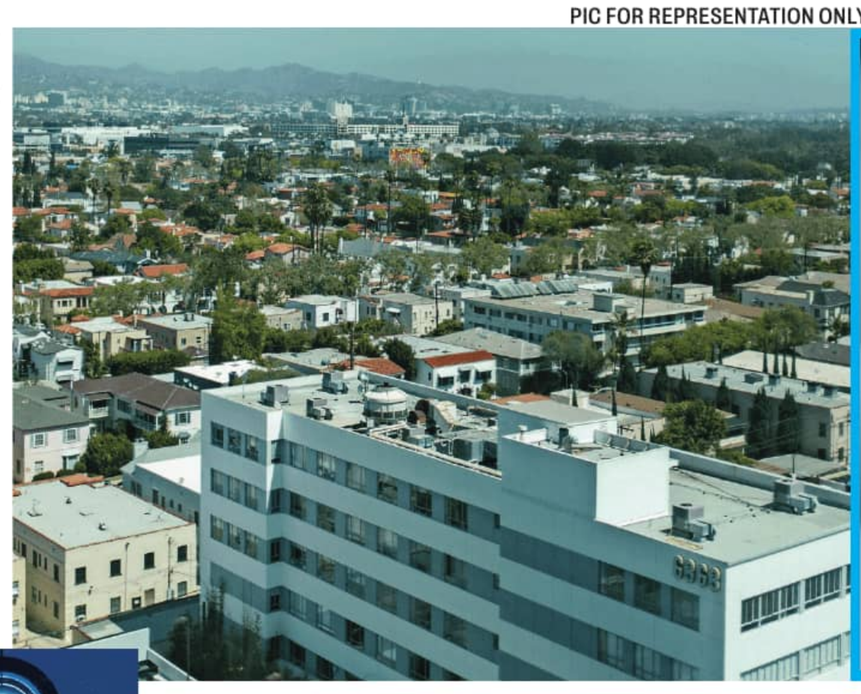
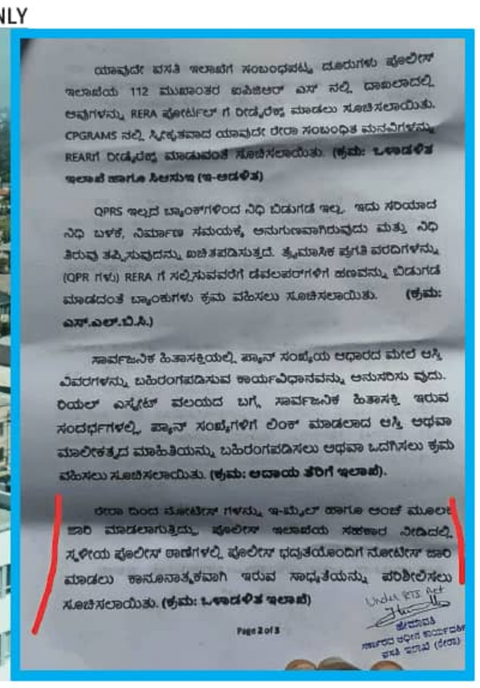
PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY





ಯಾವುದೇ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಅಲಾಟಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ದೂರುಗಳು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ 112 ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಎಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು RERA ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಗೆ ರಿಡೈರೆಕ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. CPGRAMS ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೇರಾ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಮನವಿಗಳನ್ನು REARಗೆ ರಿಡೈರೆಕ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. (ಕೃಪೆ: ಒಳಾಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಐಡಿ (ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ)

QPRS ಇಲ್ಲದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಧಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಸರಿಯಾದ ನಿಧಿ ಬಳಕೆ, ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿರುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಧಿ ತಿರುವು ತಪ್ಪಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ತ್ರೈಮಾಸಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು (QPR ಗಳು) RERA ಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವವರೆಗೆ ಡೆವಲಪರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡದಂತೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕುಗಳು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. (ಕೃಪೆ: ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ.ಸಿ.)

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. ಪ್ಯಾನ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಆಸ್ತಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸು ವುದು. ರಿಯಲ್ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ವಲಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಇರುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಪ್ಯಾನ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಲು ಅಥವಾ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. (ಕೃಪೆ: ಆದಾಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ).

ರೇರಾ ದಿಂದ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಮೈಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಂಜ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡಿದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಭದ್ರತೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಕಾನೂನಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಇರುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. (ಕೃಪೆ: ಒಳಾಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆ)

Under RTS Act

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪರಿಸರ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರು (ರೇರಾ)

Page 2 of 3

Inset: Chief Secretary's letter to the Police Department regarding the provision of security to Revenue Department officials while serving notices to developers and builders for regulatory violations

IN FOCUS
Homebuyers' issues

Homebuyers welcome move, hope ₹750 crore recovery prevents prolonged delays, restores confidence, encourages compliance, highlights government commitment, creates precedent for future enforcement

In a move to recover over 750 crore in outstanding dues from builders, the police department has agreed to serve notices issued by the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) to developers found violating regulations. Homebuyers have long been urging K-RERA, the Revenue Department, and the state government to take decisive action to recover dues from builders accused of breaching norms, including delays in handing over flats.

According to documents available with Bangalore Mirror, a meeting was held recently to explore the possibility of establishing coordination between K-RERA and the police department in issuing notices to builders to recover outstanding dues. The meeting, chaired by the Chief Secretary, discussed the option of sending notices through jurisdictional police stations. In a letter, the Director General and Inspector General of Police stated that the police department would make arrangements to issue notices sent to jurisdictional police stations by K-RERA to builders for the recovery of outstanding dues.

Homebuyers have welcomed the latest initiative by K-RERA and the police department to recover outstanding dues from builders. They said the move would be a great help to homebuyers who have been waiting for compensation for quite some time. "Finally, after eight and a half years, it is time for action by K-RERA. It is a welcome initiative that will help thousands of homebuyers and recover penalties worth around ₹1,000 crore. Let us hope these directives are implemented swiftly and without any intentional operational delays to ensure long-awaited justice is delivered," said Sudhakar Lakshmanaraja, Founder of Digital South Trust.

It may be recalled that the state government decided a few months ago to set up a dedicated cell to ensure that real estate developers and builders who defy K-RERA orders regarding compensating homebuyers are held accountable. "It is the responsibility of the Revenue Department to implement RERA orders and recover the money as arrears of land revenue. I welcome the latest initiative," said Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers' Association.

INBRIEF

No ration denial under ONORC

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa has directed that no ration shop dealer should deny foodgrains to migrant beneficiaries under the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme. The minister said the government is strictly implementing the ONORC system across the state.

His remarks come after reports highlighted instances where migrant workers were being refused rations at fair price shops. "No BPL card is being cancelled; only ineligible cards are being reclassified as APL," Muniyappa clarified. He added that while certain income-related criteria for BPL cards have created some confusion, the issue is under review. "The state is following central government guidelines, and some parameters may need to be revised," he said. –BMB

RC renewal nightmare strikes Karnataka drivers

Vehicle owners across Karnataka are facing hurdles in renewing or transferring their Registration Certificates (RCs) as older vehicle records lack crucial details such as brake horsepower (BHP) and wheelbase. The central government has now made it mandatory for these details to be updated before processing ownership transfers or renewals, creating a backlog of applications.

Currently, only the Bengaluru Central RTO has the authority to modify these entries, forcing all 68 RTOs in the state to forward their files there. With over 500 requests arriving daily but the capacity to process only about 80–100 applications, delays are mounting. To ease the burden, the state government has proposed allowing local RTOs to make these corrections directly, with a ₹560 fee, but the Centre's approval is still awaited. Until then, vehicle owners must wait as the central office slowly updates records. –BMB

Forest dept launches human-wildlife shield

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has suggested that the Karnataka Forest Department establish a state-level Wildlife-Human Conflict Management Task Force, comprising local representatives, NGOs, and environmental experts. The Minister proposed a meeting with Forest Department officials following a tiger attack in Mysuru district on October 26, which resulted in a human fatality, while another person sustained serious injuries. Khandre stated that the task force, once formed, will raise awareness about co-existence and precautionary measures to avoid conflict with wildlife among villagers near the forest, and visit schools to educate children about being sensitive towards wildlife and the surrounding environment. Moreover, it will advise officials on protocols during wildlife capture operations and emergency response measures. He instructed the forest department to fill vacant frontline staff positions, increase patrolling, improve monitoring systems, and submit detailed proposals for solar fencing, elephant trenches, and chain-link barricades to enhance both human and animal safety in forest areas. –BMB

SOCIALTATTLE

IMAGE OF THE DAY

Kamran @CitizenKamran · 7h
Invitation for the inauguration of the famous Jayanagar in Bengaluru in 1948 which was the largest layout at that time!
Since then only minimal changes have been made to that plan till today. Jayanagar layout has its own association, BDA (Bangalore Development Authority) can't Show more

An invitation for the inauguration of Jayanagar in Bengaluru, held in 1948, then the city's largest planned layout, has been shared in a post by @CitizenKamran, along with a photo of the original invitation.

It was noted that only minimal changes have been made to the layout plan since its inception. Jayanagar's layout continues to be managed by its own association, and decisions cannot be taken by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) alone. The parks outlined in the original plan have been preserved, and the same layout design can still be seen around the South End Circle area.

WHAT'S TWEETING:

Anil Budur Lulla
@anil_lulla
Spotted in Hanumanthnagar 👇an ageing sign of a @HALHQBLR factory bus stop. Is #Bengaluru still a manufacturing powerhouse after the ITeS revolution?
H.A.L
BUS STOP
1:12 pm · 27 Oct 25 · 3,128 Views

A post by @anil_lulla featured a photo spotted in Hanumantha Nagar, showing an ageing sign of a @HALHQBLR factory bus stop. A question was raised in the post on whether Bengaluru continues to remain a manufacturing powerhouse in the aftermath of the ITeS revolution.

A post by @RCBengaluru stated that it's time for the @DCPSouthTrBCP team to decide whether #Ronaldo deserves a red-card penalty or a free kick. The tweet was in response to a video showing three young boys riding a vehicle without helmets or rear-view mirrors, holding packets of chips and Haldiram's Bhujia, with what appeared to be bald tyres.

BM TAGGED:

maheshbabu
@vjmaheshbabu
Follow
@Swiggy @SwiggyCares I regret many times ordering food you. It is taking more than 1 hour to deliver my ordered food. Is this how you serve customers? If you are unable to proceed with the business please opt out. @ndtvindia @jagograhakjago @tv9kannada @BangaloreMirror
More than 1 hour?
I completely understand your concern about the delay
Your order is taking longer than expected, and I apologize for the
Google
ON TIME
Picking your order now
Restaurant needs a few more minutes, partner will pick up soon
15
Add Delivery Instructions

A post by @vjmaheshbabu tagged @Swiggy and @SwiggyCares and @BangaloreMirror expressing regret over repeatedly ordering food from the platform. It was stated that deliveries have been taking more than an hour, and a question was raised on whether this is how customers are being served. The user further suggested that if the company is unable to manage its operations, it should opt out of the business.

Patrol vehicles not visible 24/7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

no fuel stations with surveillance, and no designated safe zones along the entire route. This forces weary drivers to stop along the roadside — where robbers on two-wheelers often target vehicles, loot valuables, and flee into adjoining service roads through damaged fencing. Locals say the fencing installed on either side of the highway has broken at several points, allowing easy access for criminals. Travellers are demanding that NHAI and the police department take swift measures to restore order and prevent further crimes.

Though police claim that three highway patrol vehicles are active 24/7 under Bengaluru South limits, public feedback tells another story. Residents allege that these patrol units remain parked near hotels or shops at night instead of continuously monitoring the stretch. As a result, long, unmonitored sections of the highway become unsafe for commuters, particularly during late-night hours.

"This highway made travel faster, and we were all proud when it opened. But now, hearing that even a police officer was robbed here is terrifying. Those travelling after dark must stay alert — and authorities must act immediately," said Vivek Gowda, a regular commuter.

In a shocking reminder of how unsafe the expressway has become, a Tamil Nadu police sub-inspector was robbed near Lambani Tanda in Channapatna taluk. The officer had parked by the roadside to rest when three men attacked him, taking away his gold, cash, and mobile phone before escaping. What's more concerning — a similar robbery had occurred at the same spot just months earlier, in January, proving that the issue is recurring and unresolved.

Though the Channapatna Rural Police have since cracked the latest case, the fear among night travellers remains strong. "Action must be taken to improve lighting, patrolling, and rest area facilities — to ensure that this key national highway once again lives up to its promise of safe, swift, and secure travel," Gowda added.

Time for a design tweak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

marks progress, officers say the rest of the uniform remains rooted in outdated design, metal buttons, metal whistle-guards, and fabrics that have seen little change over decades.

According to police personnel, these metal components are not only uncomfortable but also potentially hazardous.

During physical confrontations such as protests, public control, or rescue operations, the buttons can scratch, cut, or puncture the skin when an officer falls or is involved in a scuffle. Moreover, since metal is a good conductor of electricity, they warn that these buttons pose a serious risk if exposed to live current or electrical equipment during rescue or field operations.

The concern, they stress, is not merely functional but also symbolic, many argue that the design, dating back to the British era, is outdated and warrants a complete overhaul rather than partial updates.

A head constable explained to BM that a metal ring sits beneath each button on their uniform, which can easily prick or injure personnel during public control duties, confrontations, or while running and carrying out rescue operations.

Advocate flags health hazards in fabric

Recently, BM had reported about a city-based advocate's petition to Karnataka's police chief seeking the withdrawal or amendment of the latest uniform tender, alleging that the specified fabric could pose serious health hazards to thousands of police personnel.

In his representation to the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), advocate Nataraj Sharma
raised objections to the tender notification that mandates the use of "fluorocarbon durable finishing fabrics" for manufacturing police uniforms.

Dharmasthala case: SIT likely to submit probe report by Oct end, says Home Minister

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday said that the SIT, which is probing into the allegations of "multiple murders, rapes and burials" in the temple town of Dharmasthala, is likely to submit its report by the end of October.

He, however, said it remains to be seen whether the SIT report will be a final one or an interim report.

"The Special Investigation Team has said that they would give the report in October. The might probably give it before October 31 or plus or minus two days, they may give the report. We have told them to report comprehensively and submit the final report. They have said that they will probably complete the work in October," Parameshwara said in response to a question.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he said the SIT had said that the report will be submitted after getting the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports, chemical analysis and others. "Because the bones that were gathered should be subjected to chemical analysis and concluded. After completing all this, they (SIT) have said that they will submit the report. Probably the report is expected by the end of this month," he added.

Asked whether all the information regarding the probe will be in one report, the home minister said it remains to be seen whether the SIT will submit the final report or an interim report with all the major information from the probe.

A controversy erupted after a complainant, later identified as CN Chinnaiah and arrested on charges of perjury, claimed burying a number of bodies, including those of women with signs of sexual assault, in Dharmasthala over a period of past two decades, with the implications pointing towards the administrators of the local temple.

The SIT, formed by the state government, which is probing charges, has conducted excavations at multiple locations identified by the complainant in the forested areas along the banks of the Netravathi River in Dharmasthala, where some skeletal remains were found at two sites.

The SIT recently again recovered some skeletal remains during a search operation in the Banglegudde forest area near the Nethravathi bathing ghat. **PTI**

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Seetha Ramanathapura Narasimha Iyengar R/o #310 3rd Floor Hexagon Ayi Apts 6th Main, ITL Layout Kathriguppe, B'luru-560085 have changed my name to Seetha Parthasarathi Halemane

I, Mohamed Zameer S/o Mohammed Munawar R/a 39/4, 5th cross, 9th main road, shamanna garden, bangalore 26. Shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Zameer vide affidavit dt 23.10.2025 sworn before Deepa M, Blr-26

I, Mohammed Arif Resident Number 255, 1st Floor, 6th Main, 4th Cross, Singapura Paradise, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 changed My Name from Mohammed Ariff to Mohammed Arif for all further purposes.

I, SHREYA SUSHIL KUMAR SUMAN R/O K501, BRIGADE METROPOLIS, GARUDACHARPALYA, WHITEFIELD MAIN ROAD, BENAGAURU 560048, KARNATAKA INDIA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHREYA SUMAN

I, MOHAMMAD TALHA ANSARI, RESIDENT OF TOWER 4B 202, GODREJ ROYAL WOODS, DEVANAHALLI, BENGALURU RURAL, KARNATAKA - 562110. I STATE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMAD TALHA ANWAR UL KARIM ANSARI TO MOHAMMAD TALHA ANSARI.

I Jain kruthik Vinod s/o Vinod kumar,#3384 kollapuradamma street chikmanglur 577101,I change my name to kruthik sanghvi

I, Lakshmi SUKHIRAM R/o No 038 Bindu Amulya Apartment B Block Muddinapalya Main Road Magadi Road Bengaluru 560091, Have changed my name to Lakshmi Dinesh Dodhia for All Purposes.

I, Shakila Zareena Resident Number 255, 1st Floor, 6th Main, 4th Cross, Singapura Paradise, Varadarajnagar Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 changed My Name from Shakeela Zareen & Shakila Zareen to Shakila Zareena for all further purposes.

I, ZOHARABAI LOKHANDWALA W/O Mohammedbhai Fidahussain Lokhandwala, Residing at No 144, 1st Floor, 1st Main 5th Cross, Someshwar Nagar, Bangalore-560011, Have changed my name to ZAHRA M LOKHANDWALA, vide affidavit dated 25/10/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

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I Heenakousar Kamaldiwan Kundur, W/o Fazal Ahmed Nisar Ahmed R/o H.No: #452 8th Main 5th Cross Vivek Nagar Bangalore - 560047 Shall Be Known as Heenakousar Kundur for all Purpose.

I, PALAK R, Residing at No. 105, Flat 201, Baldotanihara Elite, 2nd Main, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560018, have changed my name to PALAK R JAIN, vide affidavit dated 24/10/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, RATHNAMMA BANAVASE SHIVEGOWDA, Residing at No. 530, 7th Main Road, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru – 560080, have changed my name to BALLUPET SHIVEGOWDA RATHNA, vide affidavit dated 20/09/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Ramchander Krishnan S/o G Krishnan R/o #206/9,7th A Cross, Jakkasandra, Koramangala 1st Block, B'lore-560034 have changed my name to Ramachander K.

I Venkatesh Sathyananda S/O, R Sathyananda R/o #1823, 11th Main, 31st Cross, Bsk 2nd Stage Bangalore -560070 have changed my name to Vijaya Madagondapalli.

I, Varma Komal Vinod W/o Saleem pasha R/o #752,30B Cross,28th Main Tilak Nagar B'lore-560041 have changed my name to Muskan Hussain Sayyed.

I, Shivanna Marappa S/o Mallegowda Ro #831, Shivapriya Nilaya 1st Block, BSK 6th Stage B'lore-560061 have changed my name to Shivanna Mallegowda.

I, Asif Ahmed Anwer Ahmed R/o No. 16, 1st Main, 2nd Cross,Varadaraja Nagar, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to Asif Ahmed for all purposes.

GALLERIA

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS
NOV: 1**, 1, 2*, 6, 9*, 11, 11**, 12, 16, 21, 23*, 26, 30* DEC: 1, 6, 7*, 11, 14*, 16, 21
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
NOV: 1, 9*, 12, 16*, 22, 23* DEC: 2, 12, 21*, 22, 25, 28*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
NOV: 3*, 9. 10*, 16, 17* 24* DEC: 1*, 7, 8*, 14, 15*, 21, 22* 28
KERALA SPL./ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
NOV: 9, 10*, 16, 17*, 23 DEC: 1*, 7, 8*, 14, 15*, 21, 22*, 28
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE NOV: 17, 22*, DEC: 15
WHITE RANN OF KUTCH WITH BHUJ 7 DAYS DEC: 1, 4

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Ph.: 080-49743235, 9686664867
FRAZER TOWN, Coles Road, Mob: 9980682527
KAMMANAHALLI, KEB Road, Mob: 9901487270
KASTURI NAGAR, Channasandra Main Road, Mob: 9686664867
www.bharathihearingcarecentre.com | bharathihearing@gmail.com

HEALTH TIP: Avocado is loaded with healthy monounsaturated fats, which are beneficial for hormone regulation and inflammation control

Smoothies can be an easy, nutrient-packed breakfast option that keeps energy levels steady and supports digestion

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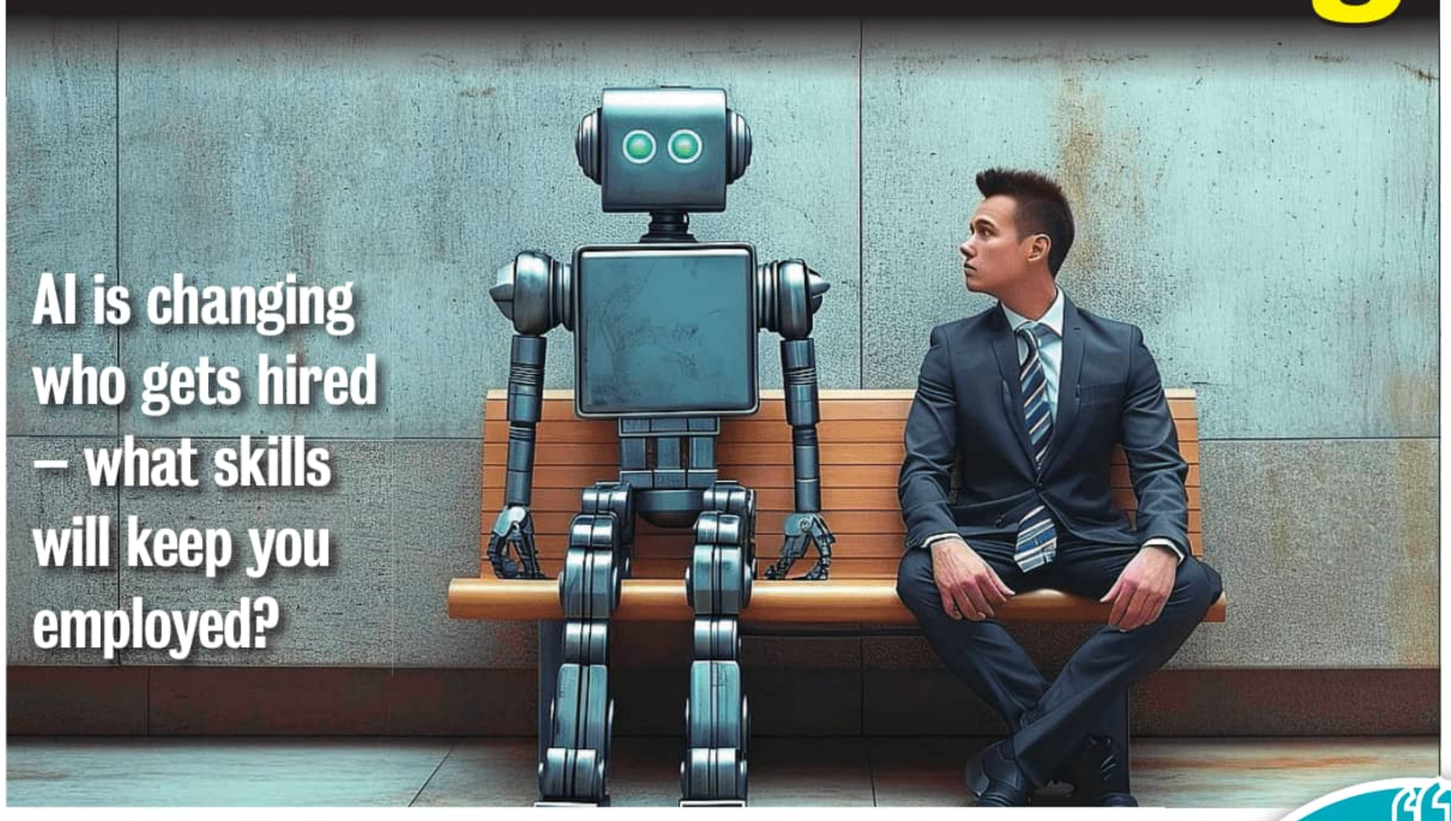
New rules of hiring



AI is changing who gets hired – what skills will keep you employed?

The consulting firm Accenture recently laid off 11,000 employees while expanding its efforts to train workers to use artificial intelligence. It's a sharp reminder that the same technology driving efficiency is also redefining what it takes to keep a job.

And Accenture isn't alone. IBM has already replaced hundreds of roles with AI systems, while creating new jobs in sales and marketing. Amazon cut staff even as it expands teams that build and manage AI tools. Across industries, from banks to hospitals and creative companies, workers and managers alike are trying to understand which roles will disappear, which will evolve and which new ones will emerge.

I research and teach at Drexel University's LeBow College of Business, studying how technology changes work and decision-making. My students often ask how they can stay employable in the age of AI. Executives ask me how to build trust in technology that seems to move faster than people can adapt to it. In the end, both groups are really asking the same thing: Which skills matter most in an economy where machines can learn?

To answer this, I analysed data from two surveys my colleagues and I conducted over this summer. For the first, the Data Integrity & AI Readiness Survey, we asked 550 companies across the country how they use and invest in AI. For the second, the College Hiring Outlook Survey, we looked at how 470 employers viewed entry-level hiring, workforce development and AI skills in candidates. These studies show both sides of the equation: those building AI and those learning to work with it.

AI is everywhere, but are people ready?

More than half of organisations told us that AI now drives daily decision-making, yet only 38% believe their employees are fully prepared to use it. This gap is reshaping today's job market. AI isn't just replacing workers; it's revealing who's ready to work alongside it.

Our data also shows a contradiction. While many companies now depend on AI internally, only 27% of recruiters say they're comfortable with applicants using AI tools for tasks such as writing resumes or researching salary ranges.

In other words, the same tools companies trust for business decisions still raise doubts when job seekers use them for career advancement. Until that view changes, even skilled workers will keep getting mixed messages about what "responsible AI use" really means.

> **While companies depend on AI internally, only 27% recruiters say they're comfortable with applicants using AI tools for tasks such as writing resumes**

In the Data Integrity & AI Readiness Survey, this readiness gap showed up most clearly in customer-facing and operational jobs such as marketing and sales. These are the same areas where automation is advancing quickly, and layoffs tend to occur when technology evolves faster than people can adapt.

At the same time, we found that many employers haven't updated their degree or credential requirements. They're still hiring for yesterday's resumes while, tomorrow's work demands fluency in AI. The problem isn't that people are being replaced by AI; it's that technology is evolving faster than most workers can adapt.

Fluency and trust

Our research suggests that the skills most closely linked with adaptability share one theme, what I call "human-AI fluency." This means being able to work with smart systems, question their results and keep learning as things change.

Across companies, the biggest challenges lie in expanding AI, ensuring compliance with ethical and regulatory standards and connecting AI to real business goals. These hurdles aren't about coding; they're about good judgment.

In my classes, I emphasise that the future will favour people who can turn machine output into useful human insight. I call this digital bilingualism: the ability to fluently navigate both human judgment and machine logic.

What management experts call "reskilling" – or learning new skills to adapt to a new role or major changes in an old one – works best when people feel safe to learn. In our Data Integrity & AI Readiness Survey, organisations with strong governance and high trust were nearly twice as likely to report gains in performance and innovation. The data suggests that when people trust their leaders and systems, they're more willing to experiment and learn from mistakes. In that way, trust turns technology from something to fear into something to learn from, giving employees the confidence to adapt.

According to the College Hiring Outlook Survey, about 86% of employers now offer internal training or online boot camps, yet only 36% say AI-related skills are important for entry-level roles. Most training still focuses on traditional skills rather than those needed for emerging AI jobs.

The new rules of hiring

In my view, the companies leading in AI aren't just cutting jobs; they're redefining them. To succeed, I believe companies will need to hire people who can connect technology with good judgment, question what AI produces, explain it clearly and turn it into business value. That blend of judgment and adaptability is the new competitive advantage. The future won't just reward the most technical workers, but those who can turn intelligence – human or artificial – into real-world value.

(Murugan Anandarajan, Drexel University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study suggests how human cells sense temperature

A study has uncovered a new way by which a cell in human body senses temperature, which researchers said could play a role in how the body differentiates between warmth from harmful heat.

Upon detecting heat in the environment, a sensor called 'TRPM3' located in the cell membrane -- the cell's outermost protective -- allows charged particles to enter, the team from Northwestern University in the US said.

The flow of charged particles in the cell generates nerve signals that the brain interprets as 'heat' or 'pain', they explained.

Because TRPM3 is also involved in pain, inflammation and epilepsy, the findings published in the journal Nature Structural and Molecular Biology may help develop non-addictive treatments for chronic pain, the researchers added.

Epilepsy is caused by a disrupted electrical signalling in the brain, resulting in recurrent seizures.

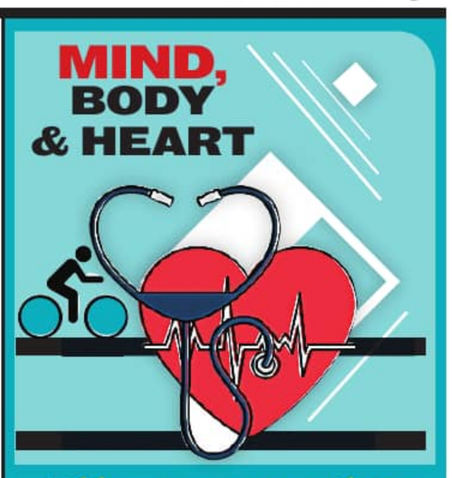
"When TRPM3 becomes overactive, it can cause pain," lead researcher Wei Lü, professor of molecular biosciences at Northwestern University, said.

"By learning how this sensor detects heat and how to control its activity, we may discover new pain-relief strategies that are safer and less likely to cause addiction," Lu said.

Tuning the activity of TRPM3, which is found in both the brain and sensory nerve cells in the skin, could help manage chronic pain or neurological disorders, the researchers said.

The study used cryo-electron microscopy -- a technique that takes thousands of pictures of proteins in a flash -- to create three dimensional images of TRPM3's behaviour at an almost atomic detail.

Because heat does not have a physical shape or does not bind to proteins in a cell, the researchers used a heat-mimicking chemical to capture the TRPM3 in its active state. **-PTI**



All you need to know about...

Conflict resolution

Good sign
Conflicts are actually a sign of healthy relationships. So, how do you get over the fear of conflict and move towards a space of open communication?

Stop Seeing Conflict As A Threat
Conflicts won't burn the bridge between you and your partner; instead, they help you walk that bridge to reach and get close to your partner. Bringing up the things that've been bothering you will, in turn, help your partner to gaze without a filter. Here, you're not fighting to win; you're trying to be seen and heard.

Reflect Before Reacting
If you feel defensive or overwhelmed, take a moment. Breathe, write your feelings down, or simply pause. It's not about suppressing emotion but giving yourself space to respond with clarity instead of fear.

Use 'I' Statements
Start with "I feel" instead of "you always". It shifts the focus from blame to expression. This small change makes your partner less defensive and more receptive.

Learn To Listen Even When It's Uncomfortable
Listening doesn't mean agreeing. It means respecting your partner's experience and giving it space to exist without judgment.

Repair After Rupture
Conflict resolution isn't about finding the perfect words in the moment. It's about coming back to each other once emotions settle and reaffirming the relationship.

Build Emotional Safety Together
The fear of conflict often stems from not feeling safe enough to disagree. When both partners reassure each other that love remains even in disagreement, vulnerability becomes easier. Because love that never argues isn't real, it's restrained. Love that argues kindly, listens deeply, and forgives easily is what grows stronger over time. **-Femina**

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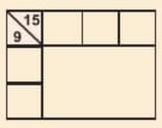
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

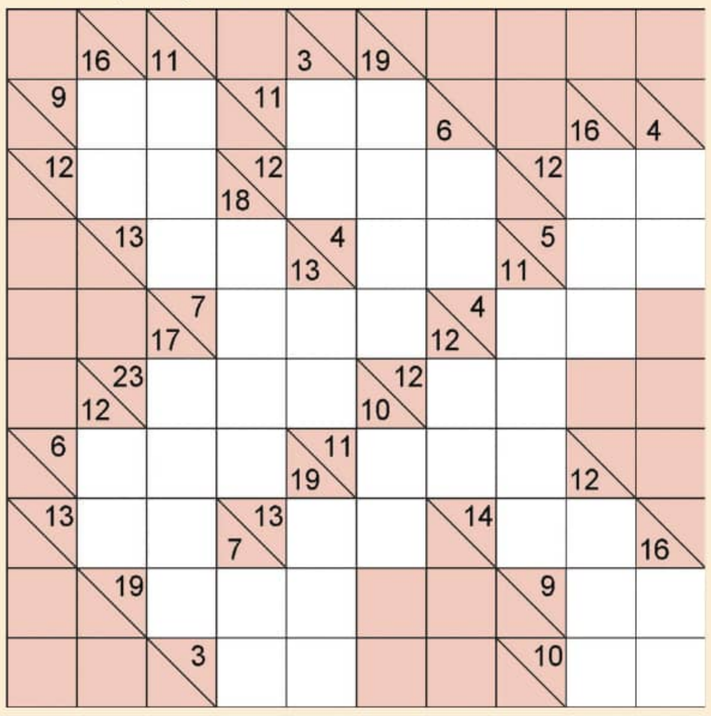
300^2 + 5^x = 325^2
x = ?

Kakuro

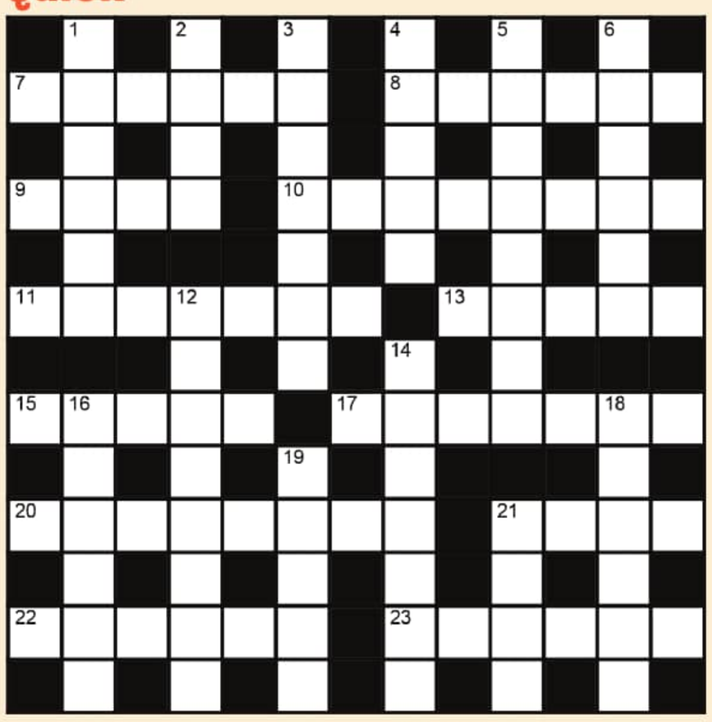
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 That's enough–it's finished! (2,4)
8 Drops or reduces (6)
9 K Asif's magnum opus Mughal-e-___ (4)
10 Tourist destination famous for white water rafting (8)
11 Enfeebles, debilitates (7)
13 Woodland deity (5)
15 ___ __ questions, and you will be told no lies...? (3,2)
17 Mark of a monk (7)
20 Centre of a dartboard (5,3)
21 Biblical garden (4)
22 Price reduction (6)
23 Showed off (6)

DOWN

1 Spout of hose etc. for jet to issue from (6)
2 Wander about aimlessly (4)
3 Counts or guesses (7)
4 Texas shrine (5)
5 They are proverbially better than one (3,5)
6 Verbally (6)
12 Great Bard's famous tragedy (4,4)
14 Equestrian award (7)
16 Acidified (6)
18 Reduced the area of a sail (6)
19 Biblical outcast (5)
21 Australian flightless birds (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS T

NXV ODNNVFIJZ UINVA IUFM-VNY GN RWY W QWNVFCGJJWF.

Linemaro

It took three tries to approach you, I kept losing my breath

Mindchow

Little-minded people's thoughts move in such small circles that five minutes conversation gives you an arc long enough to determine their whole curve

Joke of the day

Experience is a comb nature gives us when we are bald

Loop

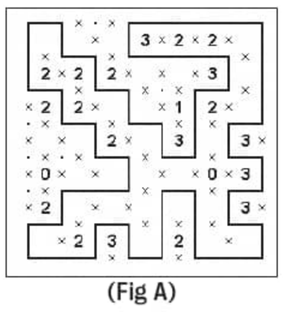
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

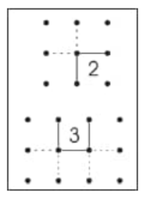
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

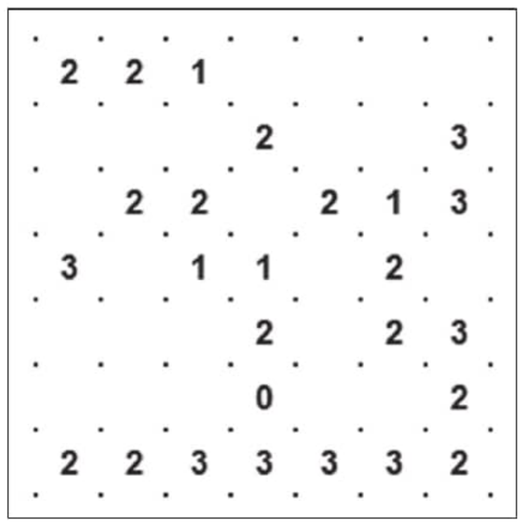
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



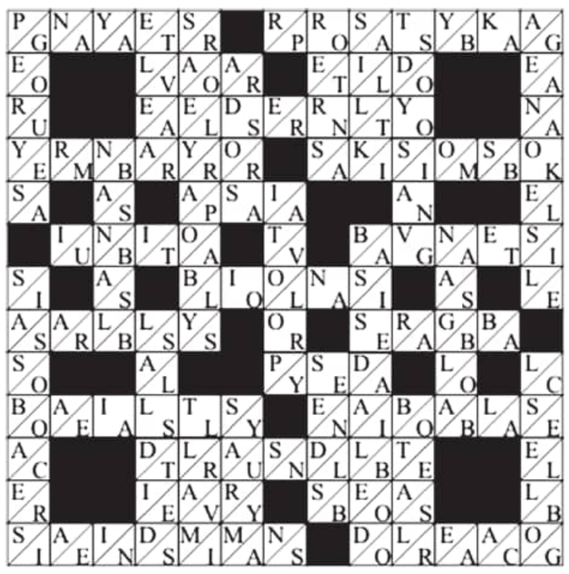
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



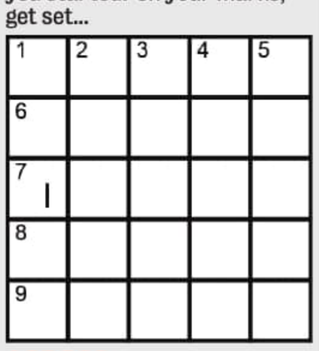
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Mascs; 6 Appal;
7 Primo; 8 Bu err;
9 Tom so

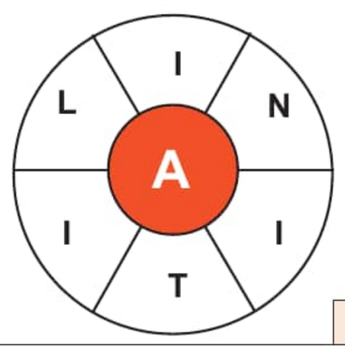
DOWN

1 Strip; 2 Comae;
3 A prop; 4 Rum ma;
5 SB Los

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3		1	5	6				
	6				2	9		4
			3		8			
7							4	5
		5				3		
1	3							9
			9		5			
9		6	1				8	
				2	4	5		3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

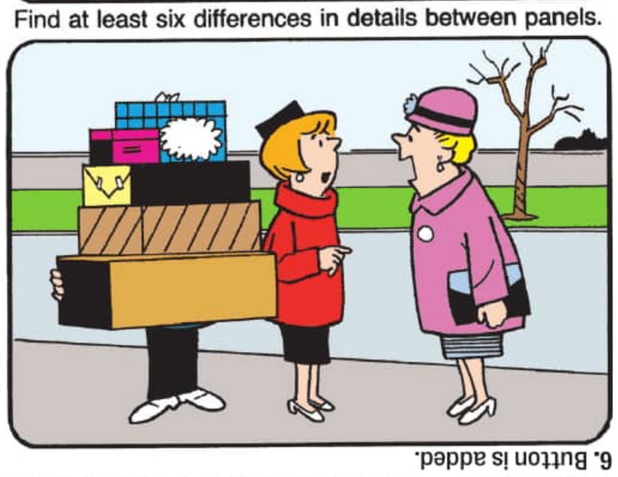
Easy = 15
3 4 7 7

Medium = 24
3 6 6 8

Hard = 23
1 6 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



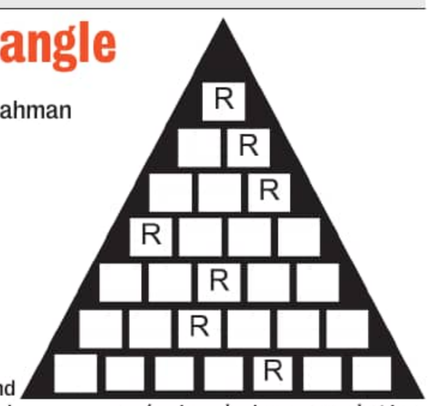
Differences: 1. Largest box is larger. 2. Skirt is longer. 3. Hat is moved. 4. Tree branch is lower. 5. Collar is smaller. 6. Button is added.

Riddler

Inside each set of the following words, there is a pair of smaller words. By putting & between them, lo & behold, you'll make a familiar phrase
1. Firecracker/Misconstruing 2. Blockbuster/Doohickey 3. Shunting/Bespeckled

Alpha triangle

1 Right letter
2 Music director Rahman
3 Automobile
4 Track event
5 Insertion mark
6 Syndicate
7 Fundamental

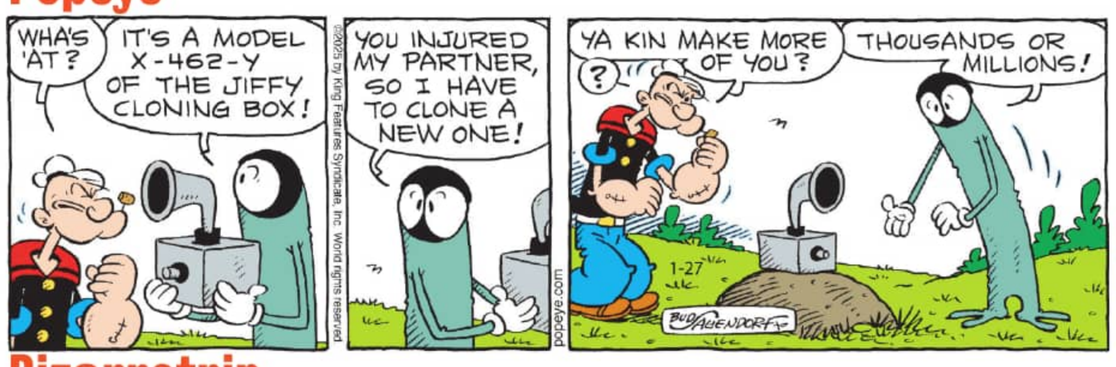


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

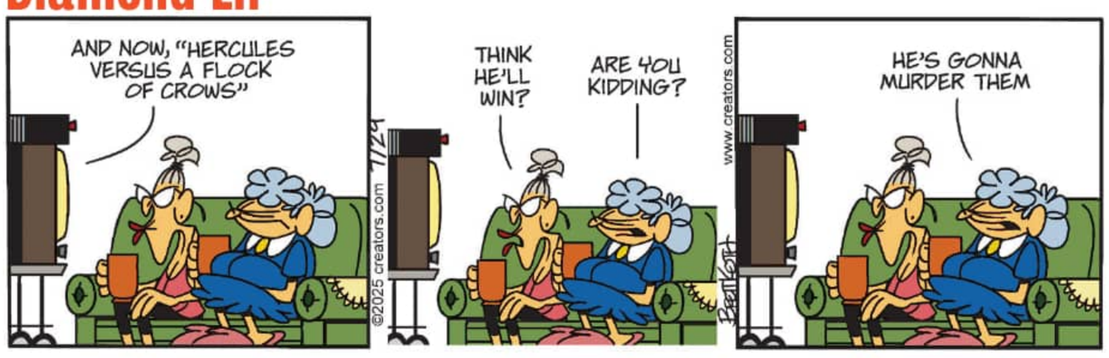
COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year emphasises ambition, focus, and stability. Career paths advance with persistence and clear goals. Finances improve steadily through discipline. Relationships strengthen with trust and loyalty. Creativity balances your practical energy. Health thrives on consistent effort. Mentors or allies support your progress. By year's end, you'll look back proudly at solid achievements.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Review every contract, deal, or legal matter carefully today. Hidden intentions may exist around you. Avoid rushing into commitments. Delay big decisions until clarity emerges, ensuring safety.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Balance feels off between work and home. While family matters are important, professional goals require attention. Step back from leisure distractions. Refocus energies toward career growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today calls for rethinking your career direction. If uncertain, pause to evaluate options. Prioritise passions over chasing money. When you love what you do, natural success and long-term fulfilment eventually follow.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Unexpected delays may disrupt your schedule today, especially during travel. Even when punctual, obstacles could arise. Allow buffer time, plan carefully, and stay patient to avoid missing significant appointments or opportunities.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
The professional atmosphere supports progress today. Nurture co-worker relationships, respond quickly, and remain approachable. Building friendships rather than authority strengthens bonds.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Travel with friends may arise today. Shared adventures provide fun, inspiration, and creative sparks. Take a short break from work. Exploration brings new perspectives, re-energising your spirit.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Time off might be interrupted by sudden work needs. Though inconvenient, dedication brings rewards soon, possibly a raise or promotion. Commit fully now, as perseverance will directly enhance your professional recognition.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Relaxation tempts you, but long-term goals require renewed focus. The hard work already invested deserves continuation, not neglect. Stay consistent.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Feelings of loneliness may arise today. Remember, loved ones are present to support you. Open up honestly, share your emotions, and allow connections to heal your burdens.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Difficult conversations might surface. Avoid bottling emotions—speak your truth calmly. Address lingering conflicts directly to clear the air. Expressing your feelings promotes mental wellbeing.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Avoid major commitments today in relationships or business. Your energy feels low, reducing clarity. Reflection is wiser than action. Use today to reassess your priorities, recharge, and prepare for future opportunities.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Step away from technology today. Phones and screens drain your energy. Explore new hobbies, connect with nature, or reflect quietly. Creativity and peace emerge naturally when you detach and reset.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Chetana, Bengaluru

Vinay, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$5^{-}x = 325^{-}2 - 300^{-}2$
Difference of two squares :
$5^{-}x = (325 - 300)(325 + 300)$
$5^{-}x = 25 * 625$; $5^{-}x = 5^{-}2 * 5^{-}4$
$5^{-}x = 5^{-}6$
Equate the exponents : x = 6

QUOTE UNCODE
The butterfly often forgets it was a caterpillar.

RIDDLER
1. Rack & Ruin,
2. Lock & Key &
3. Hunt & Peck

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	M	S
P	A	P	A	L
I	M	P	R	O
R	E	R	U	B
T	O	O	M	S

STRIKE OUT

G	A	Y	E	R	■	P	O	S	T	B	A	G	■	■
O	■	V	O	A	■	T	I	O	■	E	■	■	■	■
R	■	E	L	D	E	R	L	Y	■	N	■	■	■	■
E	M	B	R	Y	O	■	A	K	I	M	B	O	■	■
S	■	A	■	P	S	I	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	■
■	U	N	T	O	■	V	■	A	G	N	E	S	■	■
I	■	A	■	L	I	O	N	S	■	A	■	E	■	■
S	A	L	L	Y	■	R	■	S	A	B	A	■	■	■
O	■	■	A	■	Y	E	A	O	■	C	■	■	■	■
B	E	A	S	T	S	■	N	I	B	B	L	E	■	■
A	■	T	R	U	N	D	L	E	■	L	■	■	■	■
R	■	E	A	R	■	S	E	A	■	L	■	■	■	■
S	A	N	D	M	A	N	■	D	R	A	C	O	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	D
■	■	■	■	■	■	E	■	R	■	R	■	■	■	E
■	■	■	■	■	T	O	U	T	E	D	■	■	■	S
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■	■	■	M	■	E	■	L	■	S	E	Y	E	■	B
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
INITIAL, lain, nail, tail

BULL'S EYE
G. In each circle, multiply the inverse of the upper left hand alphabetical value of the upper right hand letter by the regular alphabetical value of the lower segment.

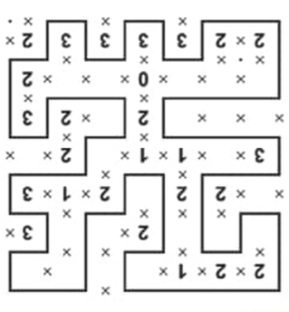
SUDOKU

3	4	1	5	6	9	2	7	8
5	6	8	7	1	2	9	3	4
2	7	9	3	4	8	6	5	1
4	2	3	9	8	5	7	1	6
1	3	4	2	5	7	8	6	9
6	8	5	4	9	1	3	2	7
7	9	2	8	3	6	1	4	5
2	7	9	3	4	8	6	5	1
5	6	8	7	1	2	9	3	4
9	5	6	1	7	3	4	8	2
4	2	3	9	8	5	7	1	6
1	3	4	2	5	7	8	6	9

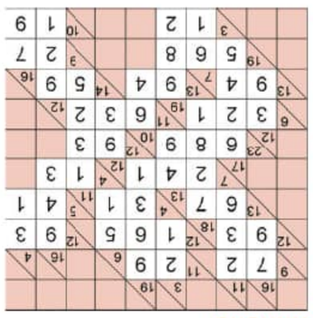
ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, AR, Car, Race, Caret, Cartel, Central.

GO FIGURE
7 + 4 − 3 + 7 = 15
Easy
3 x 8 x 6 / 6 = 24
Medium
6 + 8 x 1 + 9 = 23
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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Infidelity talk grips B-Town

Now netizens rake up Alia's take after Karan, Kajol, Twinkle revealed thoughts on infidelity

Twinkle Khanna, Kajol and Karan Johar's recent remarks on infidelity have created quite a buzz online. In the middle of this fiery debate, netizens have dug up Alia Bhatt's old interview, where she shared her honest take on the same topic, and it has once again set social media talking.

During her appearance on 'Koffee With Karan', Karan Johar had asked the 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' actress to name something that would instantly end a relationship for her. The actress didn't take a moment to think before answering, "Emotional infidelity." Her response caught the attention of viewers when the clip resurfaced years later.

As the clip began circulating online, Reddit users quickly jumped into the discussion. One user wrote, "I wasn't even aware of the distinction between emotional and physical infidelity, had it not been for KWK. Middle-class morality says cheating means Dhum tananana (Zooming in on everyone's shocked faces!)."

Another commented, "So physical one is fine! Wow. I feel sad because how we as a society have accepted cheating as normal." The post sparked several comments, with users arguing over which form of betrayal, emotional or physical, truly breaks trust in a relationship.

In their celebrity talk show 'Two Much', featuring Karan Johar and Janhvi Kapoor, the group discussed whether emotional infidelity was worse than physical infidelity. This time, Janhvi found herself alone as the others leaned towards emotional infidelity being the bigger issue. To this, Twinkle said, "We're in our 50s, she's in her 20s, and she will get into this circle soon. She hasn't seen the things we have seen. Raat gayi baat gayi (What's happened, has happened)." **ETimes**

Grim world of medical mafia

TORTOISE: THE TALE OF MURDERS (KANNADA)

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Venkatesh N
- **ACTORS** Suraj Setty, Vidya Prabhu, Krishna Hebbale, Jahangir, Chillar Manju, and Radha Ramachandra.
- **Duration** 127 minutes
- **Certification** UA

Venkatesh has written the script for this film that he also directs. His choice of subject - medical mafia is timely and shows correctly how patients are being exploited for money. He has also peppered the film with a good dose of romance, sentiments, action, and comedy to entertain all types of audiences. Venkatesh sticks to the script instead of indulging in glorification of actors. For example, Suraj Setty has bankrolled the movie apart from playing the lead but the director makes sure he does not wander from the script.

The movie begins with Shantamma (Radha Ramachandra), a senior citizen, killing a person. The next scene is a woman journalist trying to interview a convict in a prison. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback about how Vicky (Suraj Setty), a reporter working for a TV channel, is assigned to investigate five people including Ranganna (Jahangir), Mallamma, a financier in a slum, Martin, a student with tattoos all over his body and aspirations of luxury, who has been flunking class. Vicky takes the help of Battery Seena (Chilla Manju), a chain snatcher, to get details of those five people.

Meanwhile, Ranganna gets arrested for killing his daughter and a young woman, who works at a petrol pump, for killing her lover. While Vicky is busy collecting details, his boss (Krishna Hebbale) asks him not to go ahead with his assignment. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Vicky and his lover (Vidya Prabhu), a nurse working at a hospital where patients are being exploited.

Suraj Setty, as a journalist, has acted well. Vidya Prabhu plays a negative role. Veteran actress Radha Ramachandra appears in a few scenes. She played a different role in this movie. Chillar Manju, as usual, is good with comedy. Krishna Hebbale and Jahangir provide good support. The movie is not for children because of chilling murder scenes.

It is worth a watch for adults who crave suspense and murder mystery movies. **–Y Maheswara Reddy**

I've grown up with them: Sydney returns for Euphoria

Hollywood star Sydney Sweeney, who shot to fame with her role as Cassie on the HBO teen drama "Euphoria", says being back on the set of the series for the third season felt like returning home to family.

Sweeney has since starred in films like "Anyone but You", "Echo Valley" .

"I wrap 'Euphoria' in two days," she told Variety at the AFI Fest premiere of her new drama "Christy" on Saturday. Sweeney talked about returning to the HBO series after three years. "It's mostly the same crew, so it feels like I'm going home to family. I've grown up with them. I was 20 when I did the pilot, so being able to see a lot of the same people, it feels very comforting." **–PTI**

'Jennifer's Body' had cathartic effect on Megan

Actress Megan Fox recalled her experience with "ruthless" paparazzi and how the Karyn Kusama-helmed project "Jennifer's Body" provided catharsis for her during a time when she was "struggling a lot with fame."

Asked if there was any advice she would bestow upon her younger self. Then fresh off of her breakout role in Michael Bay's Transformers, Fox characterised herself at the time as "so lost, so full of that rage that I had towards how I had been treated in the industry," as per people.com.

Particularly difficult to deal with was the paparazzi's misogynistic treatment, she said. "...And so I had all of this grief and sorrow and also anger and rage that needed a place to go," adding that the film gave her "permission to be unhinged even in between takes. **–IANS**

Honesty is still the best policy

YAARIGU HELBEDI (KANNADA)

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Shiva Ganesh
- **ACTORS** Chetan Vicky, Chaithra Achar, Appanna Ramadurga, Ashwini Polepalli, Sharath Lohitashwa, Chaithra Rao, late Mohan Juneja, and Shabareesh Kabbinale.
- **Duration** 120 minutes
- **Certification** UA

Director Shiva Ganesh must be appreciated for his good work with this movie that not only conveys a message to society, especially to the youth, on the importance of being truthful and honest, but also manages to be entertaining throughout its two-hour runtime. The movie also highlights how dependence on mobile phones or its overuse ruins youth. Though the first half of the movie is not up to the mark, the post-intermission session is full of comedy.

The movie is about Sanjay (Chetan Vicky), a man engaged to Stefi (Chaithra Achar), a doctor. Stefi asks Sanjay to reveal whether he has any bad habits such as smoking, drinking, and flirting but he says that he is a virgin and a teetotaller. At this juncture, a video goes viral on social media. The video shows Sanjay lying on a bed while a young girl insists that he get up. Johnson, who is in love with Stefi, decides to make Sanjay's life miserable by attempting to steer Stefi's attention towards himself. Sanjay, along with his friend Raghav (Appanna Ramdurga), tries to remove the video from the internet. At this juncture, a don (Sharath Lohitashwa) enters the scene and creates problems for Sanjay. You have to watch the movie to know who is the victim and what happens to Sanjay and Stefi.

Chetan Vicky has tried his best in the lead role and his dialogue delivery is good, but gestures are not convincing enough. Appanna Ramdurga provides comic relief. Chaithra Achar, as a prospective bride, looks gorgeous. Ashwini Polepalli, as Jacqueline, appears in a few scenes. Sharath Lohitashwa, as a pistol-wielding don, is convincing. Chaithra Rao, as a concerned teacher who would go to any extent to help her ailing student, has done a good job. As Mohan Juneja also features in the film, it seems this movie was made more than five years ago.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch, especially for youngsters. **–Y Maheswara Reddy**